

SOMERVILLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting – December 1, 2005

City of Somerville

Third Floor Conference Room

City Hall

93 Highland Avenue

Present: Phil Ercolini, Mary Louise Daly, Danny LeBlanc, Donna Haynes, Jack Hamilton, Mary Cassesso, Dana LeWinter,

The meeting began at 6:10 PM

1. Reading and Approval of November 3 Meeting Minutes: After a brief discussion, on a motion by Danny, seconded by Mary Louise, the Trust:

Voted (6-0, 3 absent): To approve the November 3, 2005 meeting minutes.

2. Update on Trust Fund Status: Phil explained that the bill is now before the Governor to sign. The Governor must sign the bill by next Tuesday or there will be an automatic veto override. Phil has provided the Governor's office with the 1990 and 2003 Nexus Studies done to justify the linkage fees and has also provided an explanation of the use of these funds through the Trust Fund and the targeting of all funds collected to affordable housing. Danny asked whether the Governor's signature will free up the money and Phil answered yes. Mary questioned how many organizations have suffered as a result of the frozen funds. Phil and Dana responded that most groups have been able to get bridge funding, but that it was difficult.

3. FY2006 Budget and Planning Discussion: Closing Cost Assistance Program: Both of these discussions have been tabled until the next Trust meeting, in order to allow for higher attendance and more time for discussion. At Mary Louise's request, the RRLF will also be discussed at that time. Dana will find Charleen Regan's budget model and mail out a packet including this document, closing cost analysis and finances so the Trust members can prepare for the discussion.

4. Unfinished business: Closing Cost Assistance: See above.

5. New Business: Phil announced that the Mt. Vernon Street Property contracts have been extended for 5 years as a result of the City and SCC's efforts to work with the owners. The higher contract rents have been approved for the first two properties and it is expected that a similar outcome will result for the third property as well.

Phil also noted that the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness is nearing completion. Dana is working on a model for an Employer-Assisted Housing Program. Phil called the Trust's attention to the Housing Division's website, which has been updated recently. Phil also informed the Trust that their terms are soon to be reappointed.

6. Adjournment: On a motion by Mary Louise, seconded by Jack, the Trust:

Voted (6-0): To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40. The next meeting of the Trust will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 6:00 at the City Hall Annex.